

Convention Board Created In Aberdeen Session

ABERDEEN, Miss., July 27, 1885—A State Convention Board, composed of 15 members, "to meet the need of a more perfect organization," was established by the Mississippi Baptist Convention which just closed its annual session here.

This action was the highlight of the session with interest kept at a high pitch by the large representation of delegates from every section

of the state.

From the opening moment on Friday the main question at issue was that of "a more perfect organization."

W. H. Hardy, the president, dwelt upon the issue in his annual address, saying that "We could in a few years overcome every obstacle and placate or subdue all opposition, and possess the land from Dan to Beersheba, for our Saviour and our God."

On Saturday afternoon the "Committee for More Perfect Organization" brought its report recommending the creation of a "State Convention Board of the Mississippi Baptist Convention," to have general supervision of all the work of the body.

After considerable discussion the report was laid on the table, "subject to call." On Monday it was called up and adopted with little opposition.

Clinton was originally named as the home of the board but Jackson was substituted for Clinton and the substitution carried.

The new board will be composed of 15 members, nine to live near Jackson with six to represent the various sections of the state.

The board will have authority to appoint officers and missionaries, fix salaries and have oversight of all benevolent work.

The board will also appoint a corresponding secretary, "to be an organizer," with unpaid agencies to assist him in development of local churches, and to take collections for state, home, and foreign missions, ministerial

education, Mississippi College and sustentation.

The board was also given authority to appoint a clerk or assistant to the corresponding secretary.

The board will submit to the convention annually a re-

port of all its transactions.

The new State Convention Board supplants the old State Mission Board that was created in 1873 as well as the other five boards that had been created by the convention in the early 1870's except

the Board of Ministerial Education at Clinton.

These were the Board of Foreign Missions, located at Canton; Domestic Missions, Ripley; Sunday School Board, West Point; and Bible Colportage, Meridian.

Dr. J. B. Gambrell, editor of the *Baptist Record*, was offered the position of corresponding secretary, along with his duties as editor, but had not given a reply by adjournment time.

The need for the Convention

Board to coordinate all the work of Convention has been apparent for several years because of the confusion and overlapping of the work of the various boards previously serving.

Baptists Now Free Of Debt

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 12, 1944—Mississippi Baptists celebrated "freedom from debt" with a huge rally today at the First Baptist Church held in connection with the meeting of the State Convention Board.

Dr. D. A. "Scotchie" McCall, executive secretary, who presided, announced that Mississippi Baptists are "debt free" for the first time in several years.

He further said that \$284,000 in interest had been saved because of the existence of the Now Club which was formed in 1940 for the purpose of giving the people an opportunity to give over and above their usual contributions.

In 1940 Mississippi Baptists had an indebtedness of \$876,145.42, of which \$542,100 was in outstanding bonds.

The situation was critical as income for Christian education would not even pay the interest on the bonds of the educational institutions and the spirit of the people was at a low ebb.

Contributions for the Now Club came from 10,000 individuals as well as the churches and these gifts, along with the Cooperative Program receipts, made it possible for Mississippi Baptists to pay their debts.

"As doors of debt close behind us, Mississippi Baptists look forward to open doors of opportunity provided through the Southern Baptist Centennial Crusade," Dr. McCall said.

Other leaders present at the rally included Dr. Norman W. Cox, Convention president; John D. Davis, Convention Board president; Rev. C. Z. Holland, Now Club chairman, and Dr. A. L. Goodrich, editor of the *Baptist Record*.

SBC Adopts Gigantic Goal Of \$75,000,000

ATLANTA, Ga., May 18, 1919—The Southern Baptist Convention, in annual session in this city, has adopted the most ambitious program in its long history, an effort to raise \$75,000,000 for its far-flung religious enterprises.

The way was paved for the action when Dr. J. B. Gambrell, of Texas, president, in his address, challenged Southern Baptists to "adopt a program of work commensurate with the reasonable demands upon us."

A spirit of optimism marked the entire meeting. Unity of purpose prevailed and the general prosperity of the people at this time, coupled with the need for a marked advance in the work of the denomination, served to cause the convention to undertake this gigantic task.

Following Dr. Gambrell's challenge, a committee of 29, including the executive secretaries of the various state conventions, was appointed to formulate and expedite a plan to finance and expand the ministry and work of the denomination.

George Hays of Kentucky was named chairman of the committee which included Dr. R. B. Gunter, executive secretary of Mississippi Baptists.

While time was short before the session was adjourned, the group met and after due deliberation announced to the body that "in view of the need of the world and this

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On This Page - Top Stories During Past 90 Years - As They Would Be Reported Today

Sunday School Board

Is Formed By SBC

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 11, 1891—A Sunday School Board was created in a tense moment Monday morning during the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention in progress here.

It was a dramatic hour, when, without debate, that august convention voted to authorize the controversial board with only 13 dissenting votes.

The O'Brien Opera House, where the sessions are being held, was packed with 2000 people and the press was well represented.

The hour arrived for the report of the Sunday School Committee, which was read by Dr. J. M. Frost of Virginia and which was expected to set off a long and heated period of debate.

He began to read. When he completed the report, he paused as if he would begin to speak on its behalf. But something most unusual happened. Dr. John A. Broadus, respected president of Southern Baptist Seminary, without recognition, appeared and began talking.

He asked that there be no debate, saying that any church could buy its literature where it pleases but "if a majority favor a Sunday School board to take charge of our Sunday school literature, let it be done."

For some years the convention has been divided on the question of how to obtain its Sunday school literature. The Home Mission Board had been preparing Sunday school lessons and the American Baptist Publications Society of Philadelphia was selling literature to many churches.

At the Fort Worth Convention two years ago a resolution was adopted authorizing the formation of a committee of nine business men who would receive bids and report to the Meridian convention a year ago.

The only bid at the Meridian convention came from that city. Those favoring keeping the college in Clinton made offers to improve the college's condition if the body would vote to keep the school there.

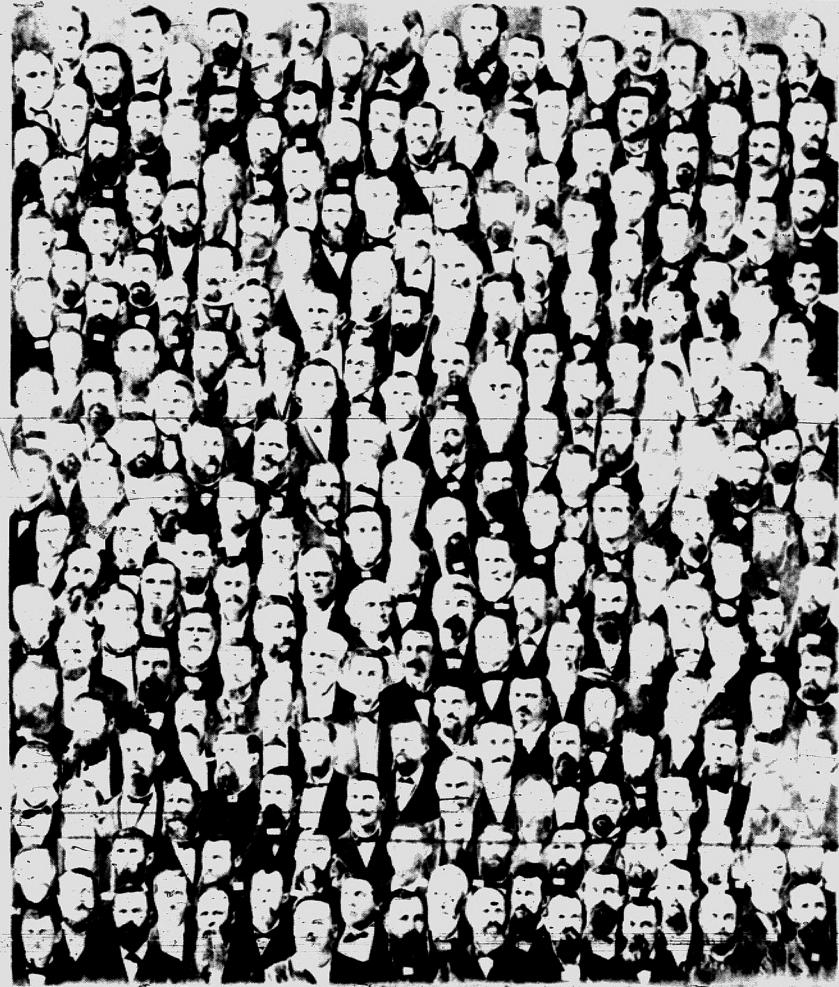
The session was stormy and debate continued until 1:30 one morning when the vote to move came, showing 96 ayes, 66 nays with 54 absent or not voting.

Following the convention Clinton and the state were aroused. The little town deluged the entire state with literature, seeking to somehow get the people to reverse the decision.

Discussion was carried to the *Baptist Record* and became heated and prolonged.

It was then that Judge Shelton's decision came and revealed that the whole controversy could have been averted if the people had been aware of the provisions in the college's contract with Clinton.

The recommendation for "The Cooperative Program of



Delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention, convened at Columbus, Miss., May 5-6, 7, 8, 9, 1881.

SBC Meets In Columbus

COLUMBUS, Miss., May 9, 1881—The Southern Baptist Convention, organized in 1845, met in Mississippi for the first time when delegates from 13 states gathered in this city May 5-9 for the annual session of this body.

The Columbus Baptist Church, Dr. H. W. Battle, pastor, was host, with all the churches in the city cooperating in entertaining the visitors.

The convention opened at 10

am Thursday with President P. H. Mell of Georgia in the chair. There were four vice-presidents with one of them, S. D. Lee, being a Mississippian from Columbus.

The sermon was preached

by Sylvanus Landrum of Georgia.

The "Committee on New Orleans" revealed that the First Baptist Church of that city did not have a home of its own but was using a building hired by the State Mission Board of Mississippi and that the pastor was receiving his salary from the same source.

The Convention voted to commend the sympathies of all and requested that the church be aided and instructed the Home Mission Board to send two missionaries to New Orleans.

The report of the Committee on "Woman's Work for Woman" made its report.

H. W. Bowen and T. L. Jordan, messengers from the Foreign Mission Convention of America, (Negro) were introduced and the convention, upon motion by Dr. J. B. Gambrell, voted that they be recognized and that correspondence with the Society be accepted. They were extended the hand of fellowship and invited to be seated.

The largest number of delegates was from Alabama, with 65. Mississippi had the second highest number with 53 present. Other state groups in order followed: Texas 30; South Carolina, 17 each; Georgia and Missouri, 12 each; Arkansas 9; Virginia 8 and Florida 2.

These along with programs guests and others, pushed the total registration to 270. Attendance at the convention, including local and other visitors, reached as high as 800.

IN MEMPHIS—

Cooperative Program Begun

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 16, 1925—"The Cooperative Program," a new plan for financing the work of Southern Baptists, was adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in annual session just concluded in this city.

The recommendation for

Southern Baptists came from the report of the Future Program Commission of the convention, which had been appointed to recommend an effective plan of financing the work of the convention.

The commission is composed of 39 members, including two from Mississippi, Dr. R. B. Gunter, corresponding secretary of the State Convention Board, and Dr. W. F. Yarborough, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg.

The new Cooperative Program will supplant the 5-year "Program" that was in effect from 1920-24 and which closed with an every-member canvass in the churches Nov. 30-Dec. 7, 1924.

The purpose of the 5-year "Program" was to complete the 75 Million Campaign and install a new and better method of financing the growing ministry of the denomination.

Under the new Cooperative Program the states will be asked to cooperate by channeling their mission gifts through one source so that all causes can share in the contributions.

The report further recommended an every-member canvass for Dec. 6-13, 1925 and directed the Commission to develop plans for stewardship development of the people.

Speakers urged caution in future soliciting of large gifts not to disturb the new Cooperative Program as it begins its operation.

Dr. Gunter, Future Program Commission member, while pastor of the First Baptist Church in Louisville, Miss., in 1915, led that church to adopt a percentage division for its gifts similar to the Cooperative Program.

In the discussion of the program it was pointed out that Southern Baptists are in a critical financial position with credit strained and their insti-

tutions heavily in debt. It was stated that the 75 Million Campaign failed to raise the anticipated \$75,000,000 needed, leaving the denomination and its institutions in a real crisis.

The commission report, in its appeal for adoption, said that the Cooperative Program is the only means of liquidating the debts of the denomination and providing adequate support for all institutions and activities.

The report further recommended that the Cooperative Program be accepted. They were extended the hand of fellowship and invited to be seated.

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Acknowledgement
The *Baptist Record* wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Historical Commission, Rev. J. L. Boyd, executive secretary, in gathering information for the stories on this page.

STATE CONVENTION— 100th Year Observed

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 20, 1922—Thousands of Baptist people from every section of the state were present here today for the Centennial Celebration of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Today was the big day for Baptists in the Capital City and especially at the State Fairgrounds where most of the celebration was held.

The Centennial observance is being held during the entire year with the annual session of the State Convention, to be held in Grenada Nov. 14-16, to be a centennial session.

The week-long celebration has been held at the fair grounds with exhibits there of

the various phases of Baptist life and work.

Today's mammoth celebration began with a gigantic parade down Capitol Street, composed of Baptist groups from over the state and interspersed with huge floats representing the organized phases of Baptist life.

Several large banners were in evidence, showing how Baptists have grown during the past 100 years.

One banner read: "60% of all church members in Mississippi are Baptists."

An estimated 40,000 people watched the parade, said to be the largest ever to witness a parade in the history of Jackson.

The body has four colleges,

an orphanage, hospital, Ministerial Education Board, Convention Board, good will center and other phases of work

in the various fields.

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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

Thurs., Feb. 2, 1967

The Baptist Record

Largest Circulation of Any Newspaper
Of Any Kind In Mississippi

JOE T. ODLE, Editor

Our Ninetieth Birthday

The Baptist Record is ninety years old this week. When it was only a few months old the special committee which had been given the responsibility of launching it, reported to the Mississippi Baptist Convention, that it was "a healthy child . . . with a vigorous constitution, bland smile, sweet prattle, a peculiar pungency, sagacity and pertinence . . . possessed of unusual wisdom for one of its age."

Today, on the 90th anniversary of its launching, the paper might well be described as a healthy adult, possessing some of the characteristics attributed to it in its first year, but also having the maturity, strength and broad outlook, which only years of continuous service can give.

Difficult Days

The Baptist Record was born in a difficult period in Mississippi history. The state was struggling to recover from the devastation brought to it by the war of the 60's, and the poverty which possessed the state certainly held true in the churches. The congregations were small, the work was not unified, and even though heroic leaders were seeking to build a Christian empire in the state, their task was difficult indeed. The Baptist Record was established to be one of the tools to help unify the work, and encourage and strengthen the churches.

Looking back from today's vista, one wonders how a newspaper or any other project had much chance for success then. There was no electric power, no telephones, no modern communication systems, no typewriters, no fountain pens, no duplicators, no addressographs, no speedy typesetting equipment, no good year-round highways, no automobiles or trucks, no bicycles, and none of many other things which are counted absolutely essential to modern life and business.

Need Seen And Met

Yet, the brethren of that day saw a need, and they found an editor, Rev. J. B. Gambrell, and he and his associates found a way. Type for the paper was set by hand, and it was printed on a handpress. Writing of copy was, of course, by hand, and addressing

of the papers also was by hand. There were no photographs, and the only illustrations were line drawings which sometimes appeared in the advertisements. There were numerous difficulties, but the paper was published, and it had a message, and it began to wield a wide influence in Mississippi and beyond its borders.

For nine-tenths of a century the paper has continued to serve Mississippi Baptists. It has gone through many trials, changed its name at least once, merged with other papers, changed ownership several times, and passed through other experiences, but it has continued to live. It was started by the convention, and although it later passed to private hands, it was once more purchased by the convention in 1919, and has been the official organ of that body since then.

90 Years of Service

The Baptist Record has shared in and reported on the experiences of the Baptists of Mississippi and Southern Baptists, for these 90 years. It has seen the Baptists of the state unite and grow into the mighty convention that exists today. It has seen new institutions arise, and other institutions die. It has seen changes in plans and programs, and has helped bring about some of those changes. It has promoted every advance of the convention and its agencies for these decades. Its pages have provided a forum in debates which have stirred the convention. It has stood staunchly against social evils and immoral forces. It has proclaimed the doctrines of the Word of God as believed by Baptists, and has promoted all missionary, educational and evangelistic advance. It has supported the institutions and the agencies of the state and the national conventions. It has worked with the churches and the pastors in their witness for Christ. It has been a voice, not hesitating to speak when it felt that something must be said. It has kept its readers informed concerning all things that Mississippi Baptists, Southern Baptists, and other Baptists and other Christians, have been doing through these years.

Change

The Baptist Record has changed. In the beginning it was a newspaper, but about the turn of the century it went to a magazine format. Later it became tabloid in size, and just a decade ago it returned to the newspaper format of its early years. In the beginning, its matter was almost solid type, with small headlines, and no photographs or illustrations. Photographs did not become a regular part of the paper until many years into the 20th century.

Circulation has ranged from the few hundred in the beginning, and the few thousands of the first two-thirds of the paper's history, to the tremendous growth of the last 30 years. In 1935 when A. L. Goodrich became business manager, the circulation was 4,000. As he began to look for circulation ideas, and with the

help of a Delta church, discovered the every family plan idea, he found a way to accelerate growth. By 1940 the circulation passed 25,000, and it was above 65,000 a decade later, in 1950. At the time of Dr. Goodrich's death in 1956, it had passed 89,000. Growth has been continuous since then, and today the paper goes into more than 105,000 homes each week, about 98% of them in Mississippi.

Looking Ahead

As it enters the last period of a century of existence, the Baptist Record probably is able to render the largest service of its history. It is reaching more people, serving more churches, and has the facilities and the strength to provide a better ministry than ever before. It is fully staffed with trained personnel, employs the latest typographical methods, and avails itself of the very best religious news gathering services available today. It is devoted to the service of the churches and the denomination, and probably has as close a relationship with them as it ever has had.

The Baptist Record staff members of today look back upon these 90 years of its history with thanksgiving to God for the blessings He has given through all the years, and for the way that He has used the publication in the building of His kingdom. They look forward with anticipation and dedication, to the challenging days ahead, praying that God may take the paper and use it in an even greater and larger way, for His glory and the advancement of His work.

GUEST EDITORIAL

"Our Motto"

DR. P. L. LIPSEY'S FIRST EDITORIAL AS HE TOOK OVER RESPONSIBILITIES AS EDITOR OF BAPTIST RECORD, March 7, 1912

"We have chosen in the beginning of the new regime to place at our masthead the motto 'Thy Kingdom Come.' In this we mean to express the longing of the heart of God's people, the prayer which the Master taught us, and the goal to which all of our energies are to be bent. From the connection in which these words occur, our Lord evidently meant for us to make this our daily prayer. A little later He tells us to put this 'first' in our estimate of all things. His people may differ about many things, including doctrines and methods, but there can be no difference among them in this. It is our purpose from time to time to emphasize the Lordship of Jesus, following out the sequences of this truth in its ramifications in doctrine and life. We invite other brethren seriously to consider it, and speak their conviction through the columns of The Record. In the meantime, let us make this our supreme aim, our daily prayer, and the focus of all our energies: 'Thy Kingdom come!'"

Alcohol Anonymous announces the total of 12,444 AA groups, now flourishing in 90 countries, including at least one Communist nation.

"Loose" practices by the FHA in financing housing projects for the aged have caused so much over-building that the FHA has been forced to repossess \$1 billion worth of these developments, according to Senator John Williams (R-Del.).

The war in Vietnam is the most integrated war U.S. servicemen have ever fought. Approximately 15% of the U.S. troops serving there now are colored, and in the top fighting units, such as the airborne troops, the proportion is frequently as high as 50%.

By 1970, the average state or local government will spend about \$1.25 for every dollar it spends today, according to *Changing Times* (July, 1966) issue. This will mean more sales taxes, more local income taxes, and more excise taxes. It will also mean that the Federal Treasury will have to increase its already vast subsidies of state and local governments.

"Stark naked drama . . . Sadism . . . Stripped naked raw drama . . ." are quotes from an advertisement for a motion picture in *Variety* (May 4, 1966) issue. The ad, with lurid pictorial detail, is directed to theater owners in an effort to get bookings for the picture. "It's breaking records in drive-ins — family theaters — art theaters," assures the ad. The most cynical claim of all is featured in large letters: "ALL IT DOES IS MAKE LOTS AND LOTS OF MONEY!"

Accidents killed 105,000 people in the United States and injured 10.2 million. On the highways of the United States a death or injury occurs every 18 seconds. Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island have reduced their traffic accident rate to about half the national average simply by enforcing laws against speeding and drunken driving.

Calendar of Prayer

(This list is not compiled according to birthdays.)

February 6 — Henry C. Carlock, faculty, Mississippi College; Ralph L. Carroll, faculty, Mississippi College.

February 7 — F. Nadean Miles, Baptist Book Store; Dr. Joel D. Ray, superintendent of missions, Lebanon Association, and faculty member at Carey College.

February 8 — Mrs. Ada Goar, staff, Children's Village; Ulvie Fitts, Baptist student director, Itawamba Junior College.

February 9 — Mrs. Edwin McNeely, Clarke College faculty; Mrs. J. J. McKinstry, Blue Mountain College faculty.

February 10 — Bill Watson, Baptist Building; Fred Tarpley, Hinds County superintendent of missions.

February 11 — Benjamin Dunford, Jr., faculty, Carey College; Mrs. Marilyn Walker, secretary, Gilroy School of Nursing.

February 12 — Bunnard Stevenson, Baptist Book Store; Paul Pryor, administrator, Baptist Hospital.

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Joe T. Odle Editor

John Abrams Associate Editor

Anne McWilliams Ed. Asst.

Bill Duncan Bus. Manager

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Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205

Chester L. Quarles, D. D. Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The Baptist Building

Mississippi Street at Congress

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Henry Harris, West Point, chairman; Johnny Lee Taylor, Canton; William G. Tanner, Gulfport; Carl Tamm, Pearl; Bill R. Baker, Clarksdale; and Norman Gough, Clinton.

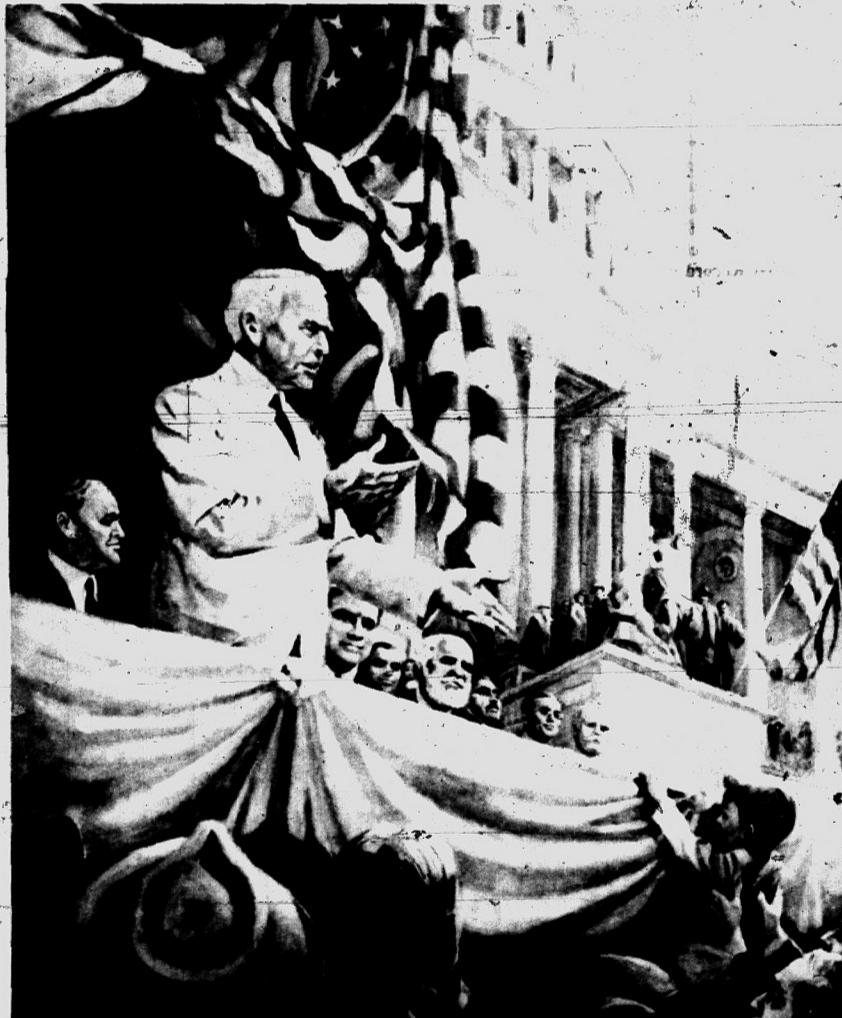
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Dr. George W. Truett of Texas, preaches from steps of National Capitol in Washington, during Southern Baptist Convention sessions in 1920. Dr. J. B. Gambrell, president of the convention, and first editor of the Baptist Record, is seen sitting on platform, directly under Dr. Truett's left hand.—Painting by Erwin M. Hearne, Jr., owned by Sunday School Board. Used by permission.

Sunday School Board Formed

(Continued from page 3) room in the Florence Hotel. Finally they reached this agreement: Frost could write the report, provided Gambrell could write the last paragraph, provided further that Frost could add one sentence. This historic paragraph and the last sentence were:

"In conclusion your committee, in its long and earnest consideration of this whole matter in all its environments, have been compelled to take account of the well

known fact, that there are widely divergent views held among us by brethren equally earnest, consecrated and devoted to the best interest of the Master's Kingdom. It is therefore recommended that the fullest freedom of choice be accorded to every one as to what literature he will use or support, and that no brother be disparaged in the slightest degree on account of what he may do in the exercise of his right as Christ's freeman.

"But we would earnestly urge all brethren to give to this Board a fair consideration, and in no case to obstruct it in the great work assigned it by this Convention."

Ah, yes, there is no way to measure the power of intercessory prayer!

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ACHIEVEMENTS are like trousers — they become threadbare if you rest on them. — Baptist Bugle.

Baptist Forum

APPROVES EDITORIAL

Dear Sir:

Thank God for your editorial on the "Priest In Baptist pulpits." I have been very much in prayer over this and other matters, in which our Baptist churches have become involved recently. My prayer is that God will give us more strong leaders like you to stand up and

freedoms.

Please give us more editorials like this and pray with me that God will give our people time to read, to study, and to form stronger Baptist convictions in Christ.

Sincerely
Mrs. M. McAlister
Meridian

TEACH WITNESSING by C. S. Lovett (Personal Christianity, Baldwyn Park, California, 233 pp., \$2.95)

PLAIN TALK ON MATTHEW by Manford Gutzke (Doubleday, 540 pp., \$3.95)

THE TRIUMPH OF SUFFERING LOVE by Kenneth Cauthen (The Judson Press, 78 pp., \$1.95)

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State Paper Serves Denomination For Nine Decades

(Continued from page 1) inferior sheet will not be acceptable. . . . And yet we were not provided with one dollar. . . . Let those who voted to get rid of the Mississippi Department and establish a new paper each bring one thousand dollars and lay it at the feet of the Committee!"

Mississippi Baptists argued and debated and quibbled over the matter until some said "it would have been better if the Convention had never met."

Finally, in September, 1876, J. B. Gambrell wrote a letter, published in *The Baptist*, in which he sanely, sensibly stated the reasons for the Convention's actions concerning a new paper. The main reason for a new paper, he explained, was that the department plan did not furnish enough space to do justice to all Mississippi Baptist causes.

And thus an illustrious paper began its life in February of 1877 with J. B. Gambrell as its first editor.

J. B. GAMBRELL

Before becoming editor of the *Record*, James Bruton Gambrell had lived his early years in Tippah County, Mississippi, had fought in the Confederate Army, and had been pastor at West Point, at Oxford, and at Clinton. Just as he preached in "brief and homely sentences," he wrote "pungent and pointed editorials." He was backbone and mainstay of the *Baptist Record* for nearly 15 years, until December, 1891.

Gambrell needed help in the venture of editing the paper, and he found it in Professor M. T. Martin of Mississippi College, who is said to have backed the undertaking financially. Mr. Martin was the *Record's* first business manager.

According to one tradition, the paper was printed at first upstairs in the Gambrell House in Clinton. However, the Timberlake sisters, who lived in Clinton until their death several years ago, used to play with the Gambrell children, and they had the impression that the paper was printed in a small house in the back yard. Anyhow, the Gambrell sons helped to set the type, and Mrs. Gambrell edited a "Woman's Page" in the paper.

Dr. Gambrell in 1877 bought the Wells house in Clinton, on the corner of College and Monroe Streets, where the Baptist church now stands. The house was built perhaps in the 1850's by S. Allen Wells, who wanted to send his two daughters to Central Female Institute (later Hillman College). It was moved down the hill to 205 College Street in 1901, to make way for a new college president's home on the corner.

The present owner of the Gambrell House is Mrs. R. W. Hall, whose late husband was Mississippi College physician for many years. Mrs. Hall has done much repair and restoration work on the house. In every case possible, she has left visible "the traces of the building trade of the far distant past." In the sturdy, white frame house, at the top of those venerable stairs, Dr. Gambrell prepared and printed the early issues of "that healthful child," the *Baptist Record*.

After Dr. Gambrell left Mississippi, he in subsequent years served as president of Mercer University, Macon, Georgia; as state superintendent of missions in Texas; as editor of the *Baptist Standard*; as executive secretary for Texas Baptists; as professor at Southwestern Seminary; and four times as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The *Baptist Record* stayed in Clinton until 1879 when it was moved to Jackson for easier distribution, and to secure more advertising. However, the next year it went back to Clinton, and the next year the Convention considered moving the *Record* office to New Orleans. They left the decision with the editor, who voted "no" to the suggestion. After fire destroyed the records and files in 1886—a disastrous loss—the *Record* once again moved to Jackson, under private ownership.

In 1887, the *Baptist Record* was combined with the *Southern Baptist* which had been published in Meridian since 1875. Both continued publication in Meridian with Gambrell still editor.

Violet Jennings, Clarke College student who compiled a history of the *Baptist Record* as a research project, wrote:

"From the beginning, *The Baptist Record* was a well favored paper. It was held above many other papers. Many of the associations in Mississippi accepted it as theirs."

"Some of the associations which accepted the *Record* early in the paper's history are the Aberdeen Association, the Strong River Association, the Harmony Association, the Kosciusko Association, the Tishomingo Association, and the Tippah Association."

"In 1884 the Strong River Association spoke of the *Record* as 'our *Baptist Record*.' A quote from B. F. Sutton of the association tells of their strong feelings in favor of the paper. We cannot speak, however, too highly of the *Baptist Record*, our state organ, published by J. B. Gambrell at Clinton, Mississippi." This good opinion of the *Record* was expressed yearly.

"The Kosciusko Association's Committee on Documents recommended first several papers, then the *Baptist Record*. It was said that every Baptist in the state should have *The Record* in his home. In the committee's report, only the Bible came before the *Record* in its commendation."

J. A. HACKETT

J. A. Hackett was the second editor of the *Record*.

A native of Illinois, he had moved to Mississippi as a small boy. Though he grew up in another denomination, he joined the Jerusalem Baptist Church, Scott County, at age 23. When Civil War broke out, he left Mississippi College to join the Confederate Army, where he was known for superb gallantry and for his loyalty to Jesus Christ.

He was ordained to preach at Canton in 1863. His pastorates included churches in Yazoo County, Jackson, Crystal Springs, Hazlehurst, Clinton, Shreveport, La., and San Antonio, Texas.

His first wife died while they were in Shreveport, leaving Mr. Hackett with four small children. In 1884 he married Emma J. Gardner of the Home Mission Board.

January 1888, he became managing editor of the *Southern Baptist Record* in Meridian. When Dr. Gambrell resigned in 1891, Hackett became editor, and remained in that post until his retirement in 1898.

J. B. SEARCY

That year T. J. Bailey raised \$10,000 capital, set up the Mississippi Baptist Publishing Company which bought the *Baptist Layman* of Winona, and the *Southern Baptist Record* of Meridian, and started a new paper in Jackson, *The Baptist*, with J. B. Searcy as editor.

Born in Alabama, Searcy was baptized and ordained in Mississippi. From 1857 to 1896, he shared his journalistic talents with Arkansas and Louisiana Baptists, editing several of their Baptist papers. Then, in Arkansas, where he owned a large farm and cotton gin and corn meal mill near Pine Bluff, he was pastor, and then superintendent of missions for the whole state.

In 1896 he accepted the pastorate of Corinth, Mississippi, and two years later became editor of *The Baptist* in Jackson.

The establishment of the Mississippi Baptist Publishing Company had solved the "paper muddle" "as merry as a marriage bell." Stockholders elected Searcy editor September 5, 1898, but a yellow fever plague in Jackson prevented *The Baptist's* appearing until November 16 of that fall. (Twenty years before there had been a yellow fever plague in Memphis, and Searcy remembered burning a letter from the Tennessee editor, J. R. Graves, for fear of the contagion.)

After just a year in the editor's chair, Searcy resigned to accept the pastorate of First Church, Biloxi. T. J. Bailey, who had been business manager, was in 1900 elected editor. *The Baptist* again became *The Baptist Record*.

T. J. BAILEY

Thomas Jefferson Bailey was born in Holmes County,

After his father was killed in the Confederate Army, he took over the family farm and helped to support his mother and brothers and sisters. He was ordained to the ministry at Pleasant Ridge Church, Holmes County. Following graduation from Mississippi College, he married Emma Mosley. They lived in Goodman for five years while he superintended a farm, taught school, and served four churches as pastor, all at the same time. He served as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and as treasurer of the Convention Board. He had been one of the editors of the *Baptist Layman* of Winona, and helped raise the money to organize the stock company, Mississippi Baptist Publishing Company, that set the *Baptist Record* on secure financial footing.

A voluminous writer, he could claim that "never had he had an article which he offered to the press turned down." With Z. T. Leavell he wrote and published in 1904 *A History of Mississippi Baptists from the Earliest Times*, in two volumes.

He was in the active pastorate 22 years. In 1914 he became superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of Mississippi, the crowning work of his life.

In 1912, T. J. Bailey sold his interest in the paper to P. I. Lipsey and J. C. Parker. Lipsey became editor and Parker business manager. In November of the same year Parker retired and Dr. Lipsey's son, J. L. Lipsey, became business manager.

P. I. LIPSEY

Plautus Iberus Lipsey was born at Independence, near Senatobia. He attended Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, and graduated from the University of Mississippi and Southern Seminary. He married Julia Toy Johnson, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John L. Johnson of the Ole Miss faculty, on November 21, 1898.

He was pastor at Columbus,

Indiana; Vicksburg, Miss.; Adairville, Ky.; First, Green-

wood; and at Clinton, Miss., serving the latter from 1900 to 1912. For two years he also taught Bible at Mississippi College.

In 1912 he used all his savings and all the money he could safely borrow to buy Bailey's interest in the *Record*. For nearly 30 years then he was editor, giving unstintingly of time, money, and self. In his first editorial March 7, 1912, he said that the motto he had chosen for the paper was "Thy Kingdom Come."

After Lipsey bought the paper, the *Record* office was on second floor of old Capital Bank Building, where First National Bank, Jackson, is now.

It was he who suggested a Baptist Bible Institute in New Orleans. He was founder and trustee of Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans, and Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson. He wrote two books, *Tests of Faith and Revelation*. His father taught him Greek at the age of 12, and always he was interested in the classical languages.

After the death of his first wife, Lipsey married Mrs. Florence Bower Morris. He retired from the editorship of the *Record* in December, 1941.

He died of a heart attack in the year of his scheduled retirement.

He received his education at West Frankfort High

and died six years later.

Gaines S. Dobbins paid tribute to the fine work of Dr. Lipsey in an article titled, "A Century of Baptist Journalism," published in 1922. Dobbins wrote, "Nothing in the history of journalism in Mississippi, nor of the South has ever equalled the success which *The Record* has met under this new management (Lipsey since 1912)."

Two years before, in 1920, Miss Margaret Lackey had begun her WMU column with, "Oh, that sisters would read *The Baptist Record*!"

On January 1, 1919, the Baptist State Convention became the owner of *The Baptist Record*. The Convention paid \$8,800 for the equipment "and all the appurtenances thereto, including the subscription list and the books in the book room." The Convention Board then elected Lipsey to continue serving as editor.

When Dr. Lipsey sold the *Record* to the Convention in 1919, *Baptist Record* offices were located at 160 East Capitol over Town Creek.

In 1932, during depression days, the *Baptist Record* reported a deficit of nearly \$3,000, so the size of the paper was cut in half, from sixteen to eight pages.

The next year Editor Lipsey requested that the paper be changed back to the larger size and that his own salary be cut to take care of any loss involved. He asked for the hiring of a circulation manager, and A. L. Goodrich was employed in 1935 for that position.

A. L. GOODRICH

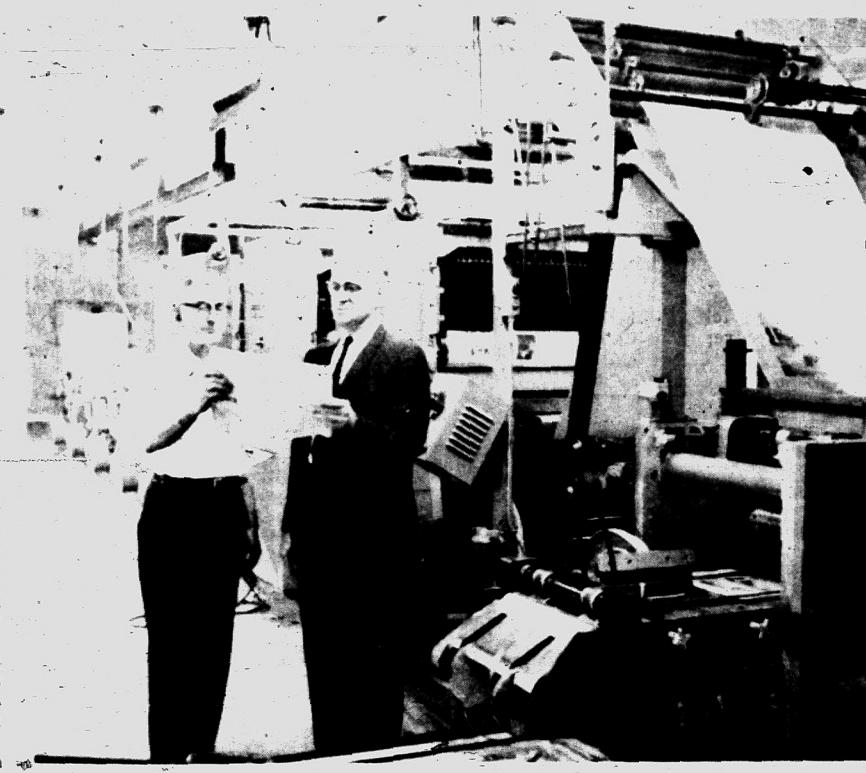
On Dr. Lipsey's retirement, Goodrich was elected editor, and also remained circulation manager. The North Carolina native was singularly devoted to the *Baptist Record*. He "ate and slept and talked and thought" *Baptist Record*. When he traveled, he sold subscriptions. As he ate, he thought of new ways to sell subscriptions. From January 1, 1935, the beginning date of his service with the paper, until March 14, 1938, the date of his death, the circulation of the *Baptist Record* grew from 4,001 to 89,227. He instituted the Every Family Plan of subscriptions, which was first mentioned in the *Record* on July 1, 1937. The first church to adopt the plan was Sunflower Church. This plan sent the *Record* to every family of the local church, and the church paid monthly. In 1936, over 1,100 churches were in it.

In January before his death in March, Dr. Goodrich changed the size of the *Record* from the conventional tabloid form to an eight-page, seven-column newspaper, and it is still the only Southern Baptist state paper of newspaper format.

A graduate of Wake Forest College and Southern Seminary, Dr. Goodrich served as pastor at Porter Memorial Church, Lexington, Kentucky, and First Church, Portor, before accepting the job with the *Record*. He was twice vice-president and twice secretary-treasurer of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Having lost his first two wives by death, he married Evie Landrum, WMU field worker, in 1937.

He died of a heart attack in the year of his scheduled retirement.



Thornton Publishers Print The Record

DUKE THORNTON, left, printer, and Dr. Joe T. Odle, editor, look over a copy of the *Record*. Behind them is the press on which the paper is now printed.

W. C. FIELDS

W. C. Fields was elected the seventh editor of the *Baptist Record*; he moved to Jackson from the pastorate of First Church, Yazoo City.

Born in Saline, Louisiana, he surrendered to preach at 15. A graduate of Gibsland High School, Louisiana College, and Southern Seminary, he married Elizabeth Hagan, graduate of Georgetown College.

In seminary days he was director of music and education at Carlisle Avenue Church, Louisville, Ky.; he then served pastorates in Louisiana and Kentucky before going to Yazoo City. Skilled in oratory, he was a member of the National Champion Men's Debate Squad in 1943.

During his three years as editor of the *Record*, he wrought a revolution in make-up style, and in the use of a tremendous amount of pictures. He had a typographical study made of the paper, and the format was changed accordingly; the rare style of flush-right headlines was instituted.

In 1959, Dr. Fields accepted the position as Public Relations secretary of the Executive Committee, SBC, in Nashville, Tenn.

JOE T. ODLE

Dr. Joe T. Odle became the eighth editor of the *Baptist Record* in 1959. When he began service as interim editor on July 1 of that year, the circulation was 90,197. Then when he became the editor on October 1, the same year, the circulation was 90,578. Last week, January 26, 1967, circulation was 105,494.

Born near West Frankfort, Illinois, he is the son of a Baptist minister, Harry Odle. While a junior in high school he felt God calling him, too, to be a preacher. He preached his first sermon at 15 and was ordained to the ministry two weeks after his 17th birthday.

He received his education at West Frankfort High

School; Union University, Jackson, Tennessee; and Southern Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. In 1949 Mississippi College conferred on him the Doctor of Divinity degree.

His pastorates included Orient, Illinois, during his senior year in high school; Galloway and Rossville, Tennessee; Barlow, Bandanna, and East Church, Paducah, Kentucky; First, Crystal Springs, and First, Gulfport, in Mississippi.

He married Mabel Riley, also a Union University graduate, and daughter of a Kentucky Baptist pastor. They had two children, a son, Joe Thomas, who died while a third-year ministerial student at Mississippi College, and a daughter, Sarah, Mississippi College graduate, now Mrs. Roland Maddox of Memphis.

Dr. Odle was associate executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention 1956-1959. He is the author of *Church Member's Handbook* which has been translated into three languages and has sold more than one and one-third million copies.

Under Dr. Odle's editorship, many improvements have been made in both make-up (especially on the editorial page) and content. Headlines have been moved back to flush-left.

On April 5, 1962, the Associated Church Press, meeting in New York City, paid tribute to the *Baptist Record* with two Awards of Merit, including an Honorable Mention for Excellence in Treatment of News; an Honorable Mention for Excellence in Treatment of Denominational Program and/or Organized Activity.

The awards commended "the editor and staff for their professional competence and dedication to the ministry of the Printed Word."

Dr. Odle's editorial, "Smoke Over Mississippi," which appeared August 7, 1964, won first place in two nationwide awards. On May 6, 1965, the Associated Church Press, meeting in Toronto, Canada, presented to the *Baptist Record* an Award of Merit "for demonstration of editorial courage through a crusade launched by a single editorial." Then on May 11, 1965, Evangelical Press Association, with offices in Los Angeles, named "Smoke Over Mississippi" the "Best Editorial of the Year."

The *Baptist Record* is owned and operated by the Convention Board which hires all personnel, including the editor. A *Baptist Record* Advisory Committee is elected annually by the Convention. Only three of the Southern Baptist state papers exceed Mississippi in circulation—Texas, Alabama, and Georgia. Not only is it the only Baptist paper of newspaper format, but it is also the only state Baptist newspaper which pays its own way, with no subsidy or support from the Convention. It pays its way with subscriptions and advertising.

The regular staff at present includes, in addition to the editor: Rev. Joe Abrams, as-

sociate editor; Rev. Bill Duncan, business manager; Mrs. W. D. McWilliams, editorial associate; Miss Mildred Tolar, secretary; Miss Evelyn Keyes, secretary; Mrs. Preston Hughes, mailing room supervisor; Mrs. R. M. Searcy, mailing clerk; and Mrs. Ed Dannacher, secretary-bookkeeper.

Those in times past who rendered long years of service to the *Baptist Record* included J. E. Lane, business manager from 1953 until his retirement in 1963. (Employed by the Convention Board in 1942, he served Mississippi Baptists for 22 years); Mrs. Tom Temple, who worked in the mailing department for 18 years; and Mrs. Doss Smith, who was receptionist and office secretary in the editorial department for 21 years. Mrs. Temple, who retired in 1965, mailed more *Baptist Records* by hand than any person in history—an estimated seven or eight million. Mrs. Smith, who retired in 1964, probably answered more telephone calls for the *Baptist Record* than anyone in history.

Mrs. Eunice J. Campbell, who succeeded J. E. Lane as business manager, retired last month.

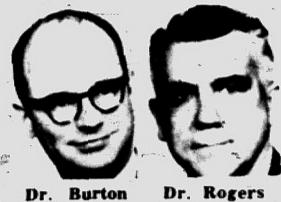
The *Baptist Record* is printed by Thornton Publishers of Jackson. Until 1965 it was mailed by hand, by Wingmail, from the Baptist Building, but now the printer mails it by Cheshire Mailer.

Force may subdue, but love gains, and he who forgives first wins the laurel.—William Penn.

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BMC Plans Christian Focus Week

Students plan a Christian Focus Week.

The 1967 Focus Week will be observed in search of a living faith for life. The dates are February 12-16. The special theme is "Apogee With- in."

Coordinator will be Arthur Driscoll, consultant in the administrative section of the Student Department, Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Other members of the team are:

Dr. William Tanner, pastor of First Church, Gulfport; Hon. Cleeta John Rogers, Oklahoma State Senator from Oklahoma City; Dr. Joe M. Cooper, instructor in philosophy and Bible in the division of Religion, Mississippi College; Dr. G. W. Schweer, a missionary to Indonesia; Dr. and Mrs. L. C. Ogle, medical doctor and homemaker, Memphis; and Dr. John Burton, physicist on staff of Carson Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.

Miss Margaret Eakin is Baptist Student Union Director of the College, and Miss Jenny Graves, Louisville, is President of the Baptist Student Union Council.

State Man Named To Hospital Post

CHICAGO (RNS)—A Southern Baptist minister, the Rev. Charles D. Phillips of New Orleans, has been named Director of Chaplaincy Services for the American Protestant Hospital Association.

The announcement of Mr. Phillips' appointment was made at the 46th annual convention of the association here. He will assume his new duties on May 15.

A graduate of Mississippi College and South Baptist Seminary, Mr. Phillips will complete his residence requirements for the doctor of education degree on May 1.

The Walton Building is scheduled for completion on April 15.

Inauguration Date Set For Holloway

BELTON, Tex. (BP)—Tuesday, April 25, has been set as the date for the formal inauguration of the new president of Mary Hardin-Baylor College here, Leonard L. Holloway.

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The Sunday School Lesson

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON— The Danger Of Hypocrisy

By Clifton J. Allen
Luke 11:12

In our study of the Gospel of Luke, we have come to the later Judean ministry of Jesus. The time was some six months prior to his crucifixion. Much of Jesus' teaching at this time reflects the message of judgment upon an unbelieving generation, especially upon the leaders of the Jewish nation for their hypocrisy and unfaithfulness, and a message of urgent challenge to his followers in terms of the uncompromising demands of discipleship in his kingdom.

The Lesson Explained Show-Off Religion

11:37-41

Crowds were thronging Jesus — partly from curiosity and, doubtless, partly from growing enmity. In that setting, a Pharisee invited Jesus to a meal in his home. By comment or by manner the Pharisee expressed surprise that Jesus did not observe the ceremonial washing of his hands before the meal, — likely what we call lunch at the middle of the day. Without courtesy but with cutting words of truth, Jesus took advantage of the occasion to denounce the Pharisees for their hypocrisy. They washed hands and dishes, with scrupulous care, not so much for sanitation as for religious regulation. All the while they had no concern about the iniquity of their hearts. They were fools indeed. The word Jesus used did not indicate scorn or dis-

that a clean body is not half as important as a clean heart.

Hypocrisy Denounced

11:42-44

Jesus went on to declare three woes that breathed the condemnation of God upon selfishness, pride, and hypocrisy. The Pharisees uttered everything, even the smallest garden herbs, but they neglected respect but senseless stupidity. They failed to understand justice and the love of God. Tithing was proper, but justice toward men and love toward God were the evidences of true morality and true faith.

The Kingdom Of God First

12:29-34

Jesus addressed these words directly to his disciples. A Christian is not to be primarily concerned about food and drink, about clothing and shelter, that is, about material necessities and values. God can be trusted with reference to material needs.

The nations of the world — that is, irreligious and unregenerate people — seek after "things." But things perish. The kingdom of God is eternal. The kingdom of God, therefore, should come first.

The disciples of the kingdom do not need to be afraid. Jesus' tender words to his "little flock" brought consolation and encouragement. It was God's good pleasure to give them the kingdom. It is always his pleasure to give the kingdom of those who desire it, to those who give supreme allegiance to it. Those who seek the kingdom will seek the Saviour.

Truths to Live By . . .

Opportunity means accountability. — The people of this generation will be held accountable in the day of judgment on the basis of their opportunity. The truth about Jesus Christ is known. If the people of this generation do not repent, they will perish under the judgment of God for indifference toward and rebellion against Jesus Christ the Lord. There is no security in the riches of the world. There is no deliverance from fear and moral guilt by the tools and achievements of science. There is simply no hope, either for individuals or for mankind as a whole, other than in the salvation of Jesus Christ and the dominion

LIFE AND WORK CURRICULUM— The Meaning Of Christ's Cross

By Bill Duncan

Rom. 5:6-15; II Cor. 5:14-21

Paul opens Romans, Chapter 5, by telling of the wonderful salvation for the Christian. This salvation gives to one peace, hope, joy in tribulation and love. What makes this possible? Many have died for good causes but the death of Christ is different. The cross of Jesus is shown to be the basis for salvation by grace, according to God's love for sinners and the reconciliation effected by the death of Christ. Here we see a picture of redemptive love that the world knows nothing about apart from the gospel of Jesus Christ.

REDEMPTION BASED ON LOVE

6-11

The story of the cross is the story of love. "God loved the world so much . . . He gave". His love knows no favor. His choice of man was not based upon the result of a survey or the use of a computer. His love included all. There was no reason on the part of man to justify what

ion of his kingdom.

God abhors hypocrisy. — The severest condemnations found in the Scriptures were indictments of persons who claimed to serve God but whose lives belied their profession. If

praise is spoken by lips given to profanity, if service is performed by hands given to dishonest work or deeds of impurity, or if hearts pretend love for God while full of jealousy or hate toward other persons, such sham devotion will be an abomination before God.

Christian faith demands

faithfulness. — Faithfulness will be demonstrated by moral goodness: honesty, love, purity in heart and conduct, and justice and good will in human relations. Faithfulness will be demonstrated by cultivating communion with Christ through the Spirit; through prayer, reading the Scriptures, attendance upon worship, and yearning to experience the power of Christ in serving him.

REDEMPTION FROM SIN

12-15

Sin is universal in that "all sin and come short of the glory of God". Sin entered the world through Adam's disobedience. Because of this moral contamination, all mankind inherits a sinful nature. This consequence began instantly even before the law of Moses. When the law was given, greater responsibility was given to man. However, each man suffers for his own



TOM PREVOST, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Earl Prevost, Hazlehurst, was recently licensed to the gospel ministry by First Church, Hazlehurst, Rev. Rowe Holcomb, pastor. A junior at Mississippi College, he answered the call and made his decision public during a series of services in Clinton in which Dr. Chester Swor was the speaker. Following his licensing, he gave his testimony to the congregation assembled in his home church. Since that time, when there was a youth emphasis, he brought the message at the regular worship hour. Tom plans to do mission work in Montana this summer.

Christ's saving work is God's remedy for sin, the free gift of his love. Sin is what separates man from God. The sacrifice of Christ on the cross has achieved salvation from sin.

REDEMPTION TO NEW LIFE

II Cor. 5:14-21

Christ died for all. Paul's favorite phrase, "in Christ" declares that the old self of the Christian died in that death, and he arose a new man, as new as if he had been freshly created by the hands of God. This new life gives him a new standard of life. He sees things differently and his judgments are different. Jesus Christ is wonderful because he won for him friendship with God.

"Be ye reconciled to God". The New Testament never speaks of God being reconciled to man, but always men being reconciled to God. It is not God who erects barriers to man and becomes estranged, but man.

Because of the great salvation we have the privilege and responsibility of being His ambassador. We convey the honor and message of Christ. This opportunity carries with it grave duty.

One of MP&L's institutional series which received the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Award.

"A Bible and a newspaper in every home, a good school in every district—all studied and appreciated as they merit —are the principal support of virtue, morality and civil liberty."

—Benjamin Franklin



Well, Mr. Franklin, we've come a long way since you wrote this statement. There's a good school in every district, all right—and you'd be amazed to see how well they're equipped and staffed. There's a Bible and at least one newspaper in every home, too, . . . at least where they are wanted. But the real point of your statement, Mr. Franklin, is one we still need to consider. You see, we've come to take these things for granted, and sometimes we forget that men have worked, fought and even died to give

us the rights we enjoy. And after all, just having them available is not enough. As you said, they must be "studied" and "appreciated" if we're going to hold on to that "civil liberty" you mentioned. That's as important now as it was in your day, wouldn't you say?



MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

CONVERSION

By Jimmy H. Hipp, Pastor, First Church, West Point

Matt. 18:14

Jesus was giving the disciples a description of one who had genuinely experienced conversion. Jesus called a child into their midst and said in essence to the disciples, "Observe this child." Notice his unusual characteristics.

The child has a willingness to forgive, and is completely dependent upon another. Jesus indicated that a child is trusting and very humble. Parents of today are very aware of these abilities exhibited by children. Evidently when parents discipline children they love the parents even more.

In describing a converted individual Jesus points out that one completely forgets self when really converted. Barclay says, "that it means the total abolition of self and consists of a life which aims at Christian service." Jesus recognized that some of those present were aiming for fulfillment of personal ambition, for acquisition of personal power, for enjoyment of personal prestige and the exaltation of self. Therefore he announces that some of the disciples were aiming at precisely the opposite of what the kingdom of God is.

Conversion means that a spiritual and moral change has taken place within an individual with a spirit of conviction. Therefore, before we can be converted we must be convicted of our personal sins. We cannot be saved anytime we want to, but only when God's spirit convicts our heart of sin and God moves strangely within us. The terms conviction and conversion are inseparable. In the remaining part of this devotional an attempt will be made to mention some of the definite convictions that a Christian has after being converted.

An individual after being converted into God has a definite conviction concerning the validity of God's word. To the Christian it becomes the most precious and treasured book in the world because realistically it is God speaking to man through the printed word. Every time we read it there is a fresh message for our hearts and an inspiration for our soul. When one has been converted unto God there is a deep conviction in the heart that man communies with God through prayer.

With this conviction concerning prayer in the heart of the redeemed it eliminates spasmodic praying. The Bible indicated that one should pray without ceasing and this will be true when one has been genuinely converted unto God. Prayer should not be taken for granted because it does so much for each child of God. There is also a conviction in one's heart concerning lost people when we become converted. A Christian will not be careless from this standpoint when conversion has been experienced and will recognize the importance of a lost individual's relationship to God the Father. This is a primary concern of the redeemed as we realize that we have been saved in order that others might be saved through our witness for Christ. The Christian has a conviction after conversion that we should be united as a body in Christ. Many battles have been lost because of disunity among professing Christians. While at the same time, many victories have been gained through the unified body of our Lord. Unity and cooperation among Christians today is needful because of the tense and troubled world in which we live. The Christian will not habitually and deliberately sin when he is converted because we have lost the freedom of sin. Therefore, we shall seek to be like Him.

Man will be convicted of these things only when he has been converted unto God and has become as a little child. May God help each Christian to demonstrate a genuine conversion experience with conviction in the heart.

Jackson and a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary, he was serving at Gilbert, Louisiana, before moving to the Delta. He and his wife, the former Alice Ruth Faulk of Vicksburg, have five children.

Mrs. Norris

Mrs. Lula Norris, the only one of the three women who were in on the beginning of the Every Family Plan who is still living in Sunflower, has been secretary and treasurer of the Sunday school since 1925, the year their Sunday school was organized, or 42 years. She has been church treasurer since 1943. At present, she is also secretary and treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union. In addition, she has worked with G.A.'s and Y.W.A.'s, and has been president of both church and associational WMU.

Born in Louisiana, in Union Parish, she moved with her husband, R. C. Norris, to Sunflower in 1922. Mr. Norris was working on a road crew building a highway across the Delta. The Norrises lived in a tent until they built their spacious home in 1925 on the corner of Craig and Howard Streets. He died in 1928.

During the early years Mrs. Norris owned and supervised a farm, but she sold that. Now she has her own bookkeeping firm. She is a busy woman, having served on the Board of Aldermen of the 700-population town, and as one of the directors of the bank.

She sews (she designed and made her granddaughter's wedding dress); she knits; she crochets (she has started a pink and blue afghan); she paints (her walls are decorated with her own and her sister's excellent landscape paintings); and she works in ceramics (she has her own kiln).

On December 4, 1966, Sunflower Church, which now has 142 resident members, dedicated a new \$67,000 auditorium. The brick building has a tall white steeple. Inside, the pews and other furniture are white, cushioned in deep olive green. Added to these, the white walls and plush green carpet make it a very beautiful sanctuary indeed.

Rev. Fred Guibert has been pastor there for two and one-half years. A native of

First Church Pascagoula
Dedicates New Sanctuary

First Church, Pascagoula, Rev. Clark W. McMurray, pastor, dedicated their new sanctuary, and held Open House, on January 8. Dr. Chester L. Quarles, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, preached with over 1100 in attendance.

The Building Committee included Walter Smith, J. H. Simpson, Mrs. N. L. Hatten, Mrs. P. J. Higginbotham, W. F. Farmer, Earl McKee, R. E. Lynn, Sr., Rex Gordon, N. L. Hatten, S. B. McIlwain, and E. J. Smith.

The church was organized with nine members in 1877 by State Missionary J. B. Hamberlin. Mr. McMurray has been pastor since 1961.

Baptist College
And Seminary
Day Feb. 19Off The
Record

Schools Daze

What they think when little Johnny starts to school for the first time:

His mother: My little darling is almost grown up!

His father: I hope he makes a fullback.

His sister: Now I've got to walk to school with him and can't go with the other kids.

The neighbors: Thank goodness: Now we can have peace for a few hours a day.

His dog: Yoo-oo-oo-oo!

Well, Thanks!

Some weeks after getting \$1,000 compensation for the loss of her jewelry, an elderly woman wrote the insurance company that she had found the missing jewelry in the cupboard.

"I didn't think it would be fair to keep both the jewels and the money," she wrote, "so I thought you'd be pleased to learn I have given the thousand dollars to the Red Cross."

Take the Fifth!

Judge: Are you the defendant in this case?

Defendant: Not me. Your Honor: I've got a lawyer to do the defending. Me, I'm the guy who stole the chickens!

The tragedy of love is indifference. — W. Somerset Maugham.



THE YOUTH CHOIR of Clarkson Church, Maben, was in charge of the singing Christmas morning. They presented a program under the direction of the choir director, Mrs. Barbara Fortner. Rev. W. K. Richardson is the pastor.

Restored Pocahontas Church Dedicated

A restored Pocahontas Church was dedicated Sunday, January 29, exactly one year from the date of a fire that destroyed both the sanctuary and education building.

Rev. Bill Causey, pastor of Parkway, Jackson, preached the sermon of dedication. Two former pastors, Rev. Wilbur Irwin, now at Forest Hill, and Rev. Richard Pass, now Adams County Association missionary, assisted in the service.

Rev. Clifton T. Malone is pastor and Wayne Robertson is minister of music of this pioneer Hinds County church which became a member of the Central Association in 1875. Chartered on Kickapoo Road as Mt. Pisgah, the church later moved to the community of Pocahontas where it served for a half century.

In 1961 the church was returned to its original location at the intersection of Kickapoo Road and Highway 49 north and a brick, colonial structure replaced the frame building that had served for 87 years. In 1965 a large educational annex was added which was dedicated only three months before the fire that gutted both buildings.

The Saturday afternoon fire a year ago that destroyed the facilities came six days following the resignation of the pastor, Rev. Wilbur Irwin. Thus, following the fire the church suddenly had neither pastor nor facilities.

Through the cooperation of the Hinds County Baptist As-

sociation, services were held as usual the day following in the Hinds County Baptist Chapel and a week following, Dr. Joe Cooper, Bible professor at Mississippi College, was called as interim pastor. A month later the church moved into the former residence of one of its pioneer leaders, the late Ben Whitfield, and services continued without loss of membership.

Rev. Clifton T. Malone was called as pastor in late spring and accepted the rebuilding challenge. A tent revival was held beside the fire-scarred ruins and new members were added to the church.

Restoration began immediately and it was found that the foundation, floor, and outside walls were sound enough

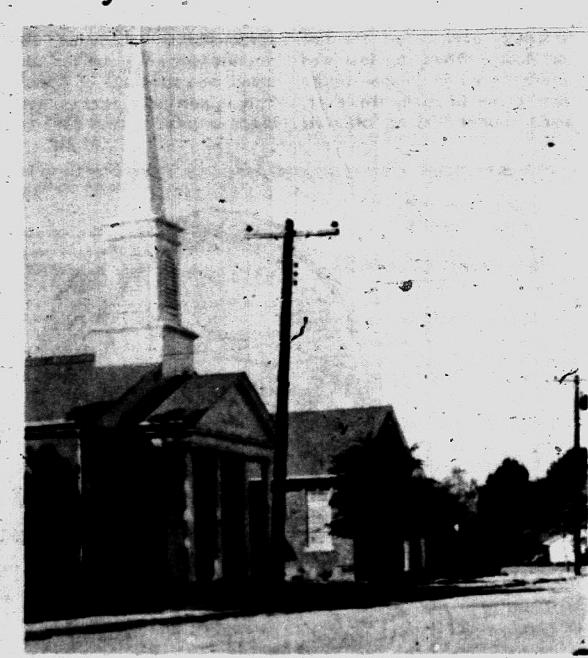
Second, Tupelo
Ordains Preacher

Rev. Bobby Holland, recently called as pastor of the Locust Hill Church of Pontotoc County, was ordained to the gospel ministry at his home church, Second Church, Tupelo, on Sunday, January 22.

The ordination council consisted of: Dr. Samuel Shepard, pastor, First, Tupelo; Rev. Harold Anderson, Supt. of Missions for Lee County; Rev. J. C. Mitchell, Supt. of Missions for Pontotoc County; Rev. G. L. Ford, pastor of Bissell Church, Lee County; Rev. Danny Holland, pastor of Guntown Church; and Rev. Cliff Revel, pastor, Second Church, Tupelo.

Through the cooperation of the Hinds County Baptist As-

Sunflower Was First In The Every Family Plan



SUNFLOWER CHURCH, Sunflower, was the first church in the state to make use of the Every Family Plan. Their new auditorium, shown above, was dedicated December 4. Rev. Fred Guibert (insert) is the present pastor.



MRS. LULA NORRIS stands beside plaque which Dr. A. L. Goodrich, sixth editor of the Record, presented to the Sunflower Church in 1951. The plaque states that it was "presented to Sunflower Baptist Church by the Baptist Record in commemoration of the fact that this church suggested the idea of the monthly payment plan which has now been developed into the Every Family Plan. This plan has been largely responsible for the marvelous growth in circulation from 4,001 in 1935 to 72,766 in November 1951."

Sunflower Church at Sunflower was the first to use the Every Family Plan of subscribing to the Baptist Record. A few churches had the paper in their budgets before Sunflower did, but those were not paying on the monthly payment plan. They were paying annually. Since

Lula Norris were convinced that all the families of the church needed to get the paper; however, many families could not or would not pay for it themselves. It was last years of the depression, and possibly some of the families did not have the money to buy subscriptions. Anyway, the women wracked their brains for a solution, and hit on the idea that maybe the church could pay for all the families' papers. But then someone said it would be hard for the church to pay that much. Mrs. Norris says she believes that it was Mrs. McEachern who first suggested that the church could afford to pay for the subscriptions by the month, if they couldn't pay for a whole year.

The three discussed the idea with the other ladies of WMU; then the WMU presented the matter to the church, and the church voted "yes" to the proposal. Mrs. McEachern, church treasurer at the time, wrote Editor Goodrich a letter:

Sunflower, Mississippi
October 15, 1936

Rev. A. L. Goodrich
The Baptist Record
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Brother Goodrich:

We Baptists at Sunflower like the Baptist Record, and would like for all our people to get it, but we do not feel that we can pay a whole year in advance.

If the church could pay for it by the month we would like to take it for all the families of our church. Please let me know about this.

Yours truly,
Mrs. F. M. McEachern

Plaque

At the Mississippi Baptist Convention on Tuesday afternoon, November 20, 1951, Dr. Goodrich presented Mrs. F. M. McEachern with an orchid, as well as a plaque commemorating the fact that Sunflower was the first church in the Every Family Plan.

Goodrich explained that during the first two years he was with the Record, group and individual subscriptions were the only plans used for promoting circulation. He then told the Convention about how he had prayed for a bet-

ter plan, and that within thirty days his prayer was answered by a letter from Mrs. McEachern of the Sunflower Church. From her letter he developed the idea of the Every Family Plan, which has been largely responsible for the mushrooming growth in number of subscribers to the state Baptist paper.

Other state papers followed the example of the Baptist Record in use of the Every Family Plan.

Mrs. McEachern, former librarian at Sunflower, moved to Eupora when her husband, a store owner, died. She taught Sunday school at Sunflower for a long time.

Mrs. Flossie Mullen, second of the three women, died several years ago. She was one of the church's first WMU presidents.

Mrs. Lula Norris is the only one of the three still living in Sunflower. When in 1922 she moved to the lovely little Delta town on the banks of the Sunflower River, she thought she would be living there for two months, but instead has spent most of her life there.

Sunflower Church

The Sunflower Church was constituted in 1913. In 1917 they organized and called Rev. A. V. Rowe of Winona as pastor. The Baptists held their services on the first Sunday, the Methodists the second and fourth, and the Presbyterians filled the pulpit on the third.

During the pastorate of Rev. C. S. Wooten of Moorhead, the present front part of the educational building was constructed in 1926 as a sanctuary and Sunday school rooms.

On December 4, 1966, Sunflower Church, which now has 142 resident members, dedicated a new \$67,000 auditorium. The brick building has a tall white steeple. Inside, the pews and other furniture are white, cushioned in deep olive green. Added to these, the white walls and plush green carpet make it a very beautiful sanctuary indeed.

The man never lacks followers who creates joy or helps his followers to create joy for themselves.